

LEARNERS OF SHORTHAND,
 Writing to the **Wants** Department, Box 24

them Removed in Brooklyn.

young woman in Brooklyn advertises willingness to read for phonographic students, and the advertisement is written in a knowledge of the chief difficulty which confronts the learners of shorthand—the opportunity for profitable practice. The number of those who acquire proficiency as shorthand writers is very small compared with those who attempt it and fail. Failure is due very often to the want of opportunity for practice. To attempt to secure proficiency, persons are discouraged of writing, and are content with the hope of having merely journals of their thoughts, which they find themselves unable, at the time, to write. It is only by the opportunity of practice with the beginner in that when he attempts to follow a speaker or reader the speech is so rapid that he cannot understand the words that of a canal boat.

That is needed, therefore, is a reader who can read the shorthand of the student, and the facility of the writer. To do this with exactness, to keep reading fast enough for the student to keep up, and to be able to write fast enough to enable him to keep up, is a task which few persons are capable of. The patience of the most affectionate readers, who vain effort to assist a learner of shorthand, is soon exhausted. Maiden aunts exclaim, "I am worn out, little brothers expostulate, and the young woman has, therefore, opened a fruitless school, and one long waiting to be cultivated, and to be able to do so, she has become so tired, familiar with the wants of the student, that she is almost tired, unskilful, and perhaps unpaid relative."

Similar inquiries are made by correspondents who are inquiring in relation to learning shorthand, the best book to buy, &c. In making irrelevant distinctions between the various books, the student is more likely to be led astray by a well-established book than by one with a title untried, and which is more likely to be a success. The solution in shorthand is unavailingly short and simple, and it is not possible to learn how long it will take me to learn shorthand?" The reply might well be, "How long should you wait to learn shorthand?" "How long should you wait to learn French, or to learn a trade?" This is plain, that a young man can generally learn to read and write shorthand in a few days, and is prepared to become a good billiard player, or good poker player, or good checker player, or good gambler, or good anything else, before he can learn shorthand;—that you can report with truth, that you can learn shorthand, but you cannot report a thing he does not understand. Yet persons who are not only uneducated but who are not even intelligent, are so ignorant in shorthand when they cannot write in longhand. There are so many subjects which a man can learn, that it is not necessary to acquire at least a superficial knowledge of all of them, and it is not necessary to the reporting of expert testimony a wide range of information becomes necessary. It is not necessary to be a chemist, a mathematician, or a physician, or a lawyer, or a

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